

What is claimed is:

1. A seat assembly for supporting an occupant in an automotive vehicle, said seat assembly comprising:

a seat cushion;

5 a seat back operatively assembled to said seat cushion for pivotal movement of said seat back about a first pivot axis relative to said seat cushion; and

a head restraint support assembly operatively coupled to said seat cushion for pivotal movement with said seat back about said first pivot axis and independent pivotal movement relative to said seat back about a second pivot axis.

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2. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a first hinge interconnecting said seat back and said seat cushion for selective pivotal adjustment of said seat back relative to said seat cushion about said first axis among a plurality of reclined positions.

15 3. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 2 including a second hinge interconnecting said head restraint support assembly and said seat cushion for providing selective pivotal adjustment of said head restraint support assembly relative to said seat cushion about said first axis among said plurality of reclined positions.

20 4. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 3 including a head restraint supported by said head restraint support assembly for selective pivotal movement together with said head restraint support assembly about said first and second pivot axes.

25 5. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said head restraint support assembly includes a fixed member coupled between said second hinge and said head restraint for selective pivotal adjustment of said head restraint relative to said seat cushion about said first axis among said plurality of reclined positions.

30 6. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said head restraint support assembly includes a mobile member having an arm cantilevered laterally above said seat back for carrying said head restraint and slidably coupled to said fixed member for selective height adjustment of said head restraint relative to said seat back among a plurality of vertical positions.

7. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said head restraint support assembly includes a recliner bracket coupled between said second hinge and said fixed member for selective pivotal adjustment of said head restraint relative to said seat cushion about said first axis among said plurality of reclined positions.

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8. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 7 including a cross member extending between said recliner bracket and said seat back, whereby said head restraint support assembly pivots together with said seat back about said first pivot axis.

10 9. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said fixed member is pivotally coupled to said recliner bracket for independent pivotal adjustment of said head restraint about said second axis with respect to said seat back among a plurality of reclined support positions.

15 10. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 9 including a locking mechanism operatively coupled between said fixed member and said recliner bracket for selectively locking said head restraint in one of said plurality of reclined support positions.

20 11. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 10 wherein said locking mechanism includes a sector of teeth extending radially from said fixed member and centered about said second axis, wherein said sector of teeth defines said plurality of reclined support positions.

25 12. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein said locking mechanism includes a pin operatively supported by said seat cushion for movement between a locked position, wherein said pin is lockingly engaged with said sector of teeth to maintain said head restraint in one of said plurality of reclined support positions, and an unlocked position, wherein said pin is disengaged from said sector of teeth to allow pivotal adjustment of said head restraint about said second axis among said plurality of reclined support positions.

30 13. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 12 wherein said locking mechanism includes a biasing member energized between said seat cushion and said pin for continuously biasing said pin toward said locked position.

14. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 13 wherein said locking mechanism includes a lever pivotally coupled to said seat cushion and adapted for moving said pin between said locked and unlocked positions in response to corresponding pivotal movement of said lever relative to said seat cushion.

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15. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said locking mechanism includes a cable extending between said pin and said lever for moving said pin between said locked and unlocked positions in response to corresponding pivotal movement of said lever relative to said seat cushion.

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16. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 15 including a latch mechanism operatively coupled between said fixed and mobile members for selectively locking said mobile member relative to said fixed member in any one of said plurality of vertical positions.

15 17. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said latch mechanism includes a rack of teeth extending outwardly from said mobile member with respect to said sliding movement of said mobile member relative to said fixed member, wherein said rack of teeth defines said plurality of vertical positions.

20 18. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 17 wherein said latch mechanism includes a pawl movably supported by said fixed member for movement between a locked position lockingly engaged with said rack of teeth for maintaining said mobile member in one of said plurality of vertical positions and an unlocked position disengaged from said rack of teeth for allowing sliding movement of said mobile member relative to said fixed member among said  
25 plurality of vertical positions.

19. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 18 wherein said latch mechanism includes a release handle pivotally coupled to said fixed member and adapted for actuating said pawl between said locked and unlocked positions in response to corresponding pivotal movement  
30 of said release handle relative to said fixed member.

20. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 19 wherein said arm of said mobile member includes a guide post slidably coupled to said head restraint thereon for sliding movement of said head restraint relative to said mobile member.